

[illegible]

1. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process, whereby a user can interact with said apparatus to receive instructions for preparation of a variety of dishes, comprising:

- a. memory means, said memory means storing a plurality of cooking recipes in a hierarchically structured database;
- b. selection means, said selection means allowing said user to select at least one recipe from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means;
- c. recipe loading means, said recipe loading means allowing said user to add recipes to said hierarchically structured database; and
- d. communication means, said communication means communicating cooking instructions from said at least one selected recipe to said user, wherein said communication means further comprise text-to-speech and voice recognition means, said text-to-speech and voice recognition means configured to fulfill and recognize spoken commands given by said user to said apparatus.

2. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising editing means, said editing means allowing said user to edit any one of said plurality of cooking recipes stored on said memory means.

3. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said recipe loading means further comprise formatting means, said formatting means changing the format of said added recipes to conform to the format of said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means.
4. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising displaying means, said displaying means displaying said at least one selected recipe.
5. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising printing means, said printing means printing a number of recipes from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means.
6. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising glossary means, said glossary means providing explanations for terms contained within said cooking recipes.

7. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising timing means, said timing means allowing said user to set time required to prepare said at least one selected recipe.
8. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said selection means are further configured to create a list of ingredients from said at least one selected recipe.
9. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising sending means, said sending means sending a number of recipes from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means to recipients designated by said user.
10. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is an electronic handheld device.
11. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is a household appliance.

12. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is a computer application.

13. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said apparatus is an Internet website.

14. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process, whereby a user can interact with said apparatus to receive instructions for preparation of a variety of dishes, comprising:

- a. memory means, said memory means storing a plurality of cooking recipes in a hierarchically structured database; and
- b. communication means, said communication means communicating cooking instructions from at least one selected recipe from said plurality of cooking recipes to said user, wherein said communication means further comprise text-to-speech and voice recognition means, said text-to-speech and voice recognition means configured to fulfill and recognize spoken commands given by said user to said apparatus.

15. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising editing means, said editing means allowing said user to edit any one of said plurality of cooking recipes stored on said memory means.
16. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising displaying means, said displaying means displaying said at least one selected recipe.
17. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising printing means, said printing means printing a number of recipes from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means.
18. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising glossary means, said glossary means providing explanations for terms contained within said plurality of cooking recipes.
19. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising timing means, said timing means allowing said user to set time required to prepare said at least one selected recipe.

20. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 further comprising sending means, said sending means sending a number of recipes from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means to recipients designated by said user.

21. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said apparatus is an electronic handheld device.

22. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said apparatus is a household appliance.

23. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said apparatus is a computer application.

24. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said apparatus is an Internet website.

25. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process, whereby a user can interact with said apparatus to receive instructions for preparation of a variety of dishes, comprising:

- a. memory means, said memory means storing a plurality of cooking recipes in a hierarchically structured database;
- b. selection means, said selection means allowing said user to select at least one recipe from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means; and
- c. communication means, said communication means communicating cooking instructions from said at least one selected recipe to said user, wherein said communication means further comprise text-to-speech and voice recognition means, said text-to-speech and voice recognition means configured to fulfill and recognize spoken commands given by said user to said apparatus.

26. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising editing means, said editing means allowing said user to edit any one of said plurality of cooking recipes stored on said memory means.

27. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25, wherein said selection means are further configured to create a list of ingredients from said at least one selected recipe.



28. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising displaying means, said displaying means displaying said at least one selected recipe.

29. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising printing means, said printing means printing a number of recipes from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means.

30. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising glossary means, said glossary means providing explanations for terms contained within said plurality of cooking recipes.

31. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising timing means, said timing means allowing said user to set time required to prepare said at least one selected recipe.

32. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising sending means, said sending means sending a number of recipes from said plurality of recipes stored on said memory means to recipients designated by said user.

33. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 wherein said apparatus is an electronic handheld device.

34. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 wherein said apparatus is a household appliance.

35. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 wherein said apparatus is a computer application.

36. An apparatus for facilitating the food preparation process as claimed in Claim 25 wherein said apparatus is an Internet website.